



SAINT TIMOTHY CATHOLIC CHURCH



Mother Teresa of Calcutta Catholic School

Engaging Students in the Faith, Academics and Community



Tye and Colleen with their children, Thayne and Bridget

It has been five years since Mother Teresa of Calcutta Catholic School took on its new name and location here in Lutz, Fla. — and what a wonderful five years they have been! This diocesan-run school, serving students from kindergarten through the eighth grade, provides a solid academic education in a faith-filled setting.

For parishioners Tye and Colleen Swenson, the decision to send their children to our diocesan school was an easy one. Tye and Colleen attended the school when it was called Most Holy Redeemer, and both are ardent supporters of Catholic education. In addition to having two children at the school — sixth-grader Thayne and fourth-grader Bridget — the couple is also heavily involved as Colleen teaches Physical Education there, and Tye has served on the Home-School Association for four years.

The Swensons are thankful for the opportunity to send their children to a Catholic school.

“I love everything about it,” Tye says. “I like that my kids are able to practice their faith at school. They go to Mass every week and there

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Mother Teresa of Calcutta Catholic School

Engaging Students in the Faith, Academics and Community continued from front cover

“On one recent retreat day, some students were packing bagged lunches for the Trinity Café and others were doing clean-up around the school. They all get a sense of service and I think that’s neat. Stewardship can catch on at any age, and you can’t just teach it in a textbook — it’s hands-on. They are learning that there is a bigger picture than just them and what’s going on in their little world.” — Colleen Swenson

are lots of chances to pray during the day, and that’s really neat.”

Tuesday Masses are led by a different grade level each week, giving students a chance to participate in the liturgy as readers, soloists, and more. In addition, students at Mother Teresa of Calcutta Catholic School attend religion class every day. During Lent, they do Stations of the Cross on Fridays, and special “retreat days” are organized for the students throughout the year.

As a parent, Tye has observed firsthand the love of the Mass that the school has instilled in his children.

“I like the school just for the fact that it gives them a structure around their faith,” he says. “When we go to Mass as a family, they know what’s going on. They really understand. If I say I’m not sure we’re going to get to Mass this week because of sports and things, they’ll start looking for where to go, because they don’t want to miss.”

As a P.E. teacher and coach, Colleen loves being able to pray with the school teams before each game or match. Another highlight of each year is the faculty-student kickball game, which often brings out some of our parish priests!

“All of our priests have participated at some point, which I think is really neat,” Colleen says. “How many kids can say they’ve played kickball with their priest?”

Colleen also appreciates that students at the school are introduced to the concepts of stewardship and actively living out the Gospel from an early age.

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of service and I think that’s neat. Stewardship can catch on at any age, and you can’t just teach it in a textbook — it’s hands-on. They are learning that there is a bigger picture than just them and what’s going on in their little world.”

Yet another blessing that Mother Teresa of Calcutta Catholic School brings is the sense of fellowship shared by the faculty, staff, students and their families.

“The school community is made up of really faith-based people in general,” Tye says. “It’s a really strong, supportive community.”

“It’s a small school so you know everybody,” Colleen adds. “If something happens to a family, everyone comes together to support and help them out. Parents will attend anything they are invited to and give where needed, and I also see the students encouraging and cheering for each other all the time.”

All in all, reflecting on their family’s involvement with our diocesan school over these past five years, the Swensons are thankful for all the school has done for them.

“It meets all the needs that I see as an educator and a parent,” Colleen says. “In education, in friendships, in all areas, there are just so many different opportunities. And if a Catholic high school education is a route you see your kids taking, a good foundation starts early.”

For Tye, the ultimate goal of a parent — and that of the school — all boils down to one thing.

“I just hope that I’m raising good people,” he says. “That’s my number one job, I think. I think my parents did a fair job of doing that, so I’m trying to keep it going. I’m thankful for the Catholic education. For our kids, it’s perfect.”

If you would like to learn more about Mother Teresa Catholic School, please visit the school’s website at www.mtctampa.org.

A Letter From Our Pastor

The Mass is a Gift, to God and Our Parish Community

Dear Friends in Christ,

It is hard to believe that August is upon us! We are now approaching the new school year, the completion of vacations, and the time when things here at our parish get busier again.

We call them vacations, but the British call them “holidays.” Of course, it’s easy to see that the words “holiday” and “holy day” share the same roots. There was a time when the only “holidays” people experienced were indeed “holy days.” That included Sunday, to be sure, but the reason people had these “holy days” was to celebrate religious times and occasions.

We’re all pretty familiar with the term “Holy Day of Obligation.” In fact, there is one this month — Aug. 15, the Solemnity of the Assumption of Mary. A solemnity is a feast day of the highest rank in the Church — and as we are told in the *Code of Canon Law* (1247), “On Sundays and other holy days of obligation, the faithful are obliged to participate in the Mass.”

Note that what this actually says is that Sunday is, in fact, a Holy Day of Obligation — we should view our weekly Mass attendance this way, as well. Sometimes in our busy modern lives, we may lose sight of how important this is.



Of course, our Mass attendance goes hand in hand with stewardship — how we take and responsibly use the gifts God has given us, then return and share those gifts with the Lord and those around us. Although going to Mass is a gift to the Lord, it is also a gift to our community and to ourselves. We need that time to step back from our daily worries and concerns, and to look deeper into the meaning of living and of the importance of our relationship with God.

This month, and always, let us each consider how important it is to attend Mass. If we are really going to be committed to stewardship, we need to realize the significance of setting aside time each week and on designated holy days — Aug. 15, for example — to be with the Lord and with our parish community at Mass. We must be completely committed to living out our Catholic faith!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Rev. Kenneth J. Malley

Rev. Kenneth J. Malley





Parish Finances and the Freedom

Freedom is something we hear spoken about often in today's society. It's something we all desire and something we continuously strive to protect. Yet, rather than being something that is meant to be taken or fought for, Christ teaches us that true freedom comes from surrender, fully entrusting our hearts, lives and possessions to the Lord, sharing our bounty with others and believing wholeheartedly in His providence. This is essential not only in our personal lives, says Fr. Kenneth Malley, but in our workings as an entire faith community.

"Freedom comes into our lives when we share from what has been given to us," Fr. Malley says. "Oftentimes, this requires a leap of faith because our tendency is to be consumed with what we need or what we 'have to do.'"

Eager to lead by example, St. Timothy Catholic Church has worked hard over the years to ensure that God remains "number one" in all our parish endeavors. This, of course, means caring for the parishioners and individuals directly entrusted to us — but it also requires us looking outward as we seek to become that light onto others (Matthew 5:14).

"I would like us to be known as a church that gives back to the community," Fr. Malley says. "On campus and off campus, we are called to courageously live out the Gospel message. And it's important for us as a parish to remember that all that we have is given to us from God. We have truly been entrusted with much and we will be judged on how we used those gifts."

Mindful of this, St. Timothy has built in a 10-percent tithing expense into its annual budget, ensuring that we have designated funds each year to help benefit local, national and international organizations. Thanks to this initiative, we were able to donate \$100,000 last fiscal year, benefitting organizations such as the Catholic Foundation, Guiding Star, several local Catholic schools, the St. Vincent de Paul Society, the Institute For Priestly Formation, Catholic Relief Services, and the Dominican Republic Mission Trip. Our plan is to grow these funds even more this year, allowing us to take an even greater leap of faith as we work to give generously to others.

"We've been working a lot in recent years to develop this concept that all that we have is from God," Fr. Malley says.

Making a difference internationally by our parish's financial support of the Dominican Republic Mission Trip.



Freedom of Fully Embracing Stewardship

“I want to be able to give testimony that we are working with God in our finances here at the parish. We’re not just here to consume and take. As a parish, we have a responsibility to support others.”

Working with the parish’s exceptional finance committee, Fr. Malley looks forward to “refining and defining” our parish’s outreach and support. This allows our parish to really model stewardship to its parishioners and helps give them the confidence that their own donations made generously to the Church are being used well. That’s why starting this year, all special second collections — with the exception of emergency disaster relief — will be canceled, drawing instead from the parish’s designated tithing fund.

“We hope in eliminating all of these extra collections to better streamline the process so that parishioners can pray about their one donation to the church without being asked to give over and over again,” Fr. Malley says. “This allows them to discern what they feel called to give each month. And as they give, they’ll also be receiving the graces from all these places that we as a community support and help.”

By giving in these ways, both personally and as an entire faith community, excellence can’t help but follow because embracing stewardship as a way of life truly blesses our lives — spiritually, emotionally and physically.

“My prayer is that we can invite our parish into full stewardship,” Fr. Malley says. “That is what allows us to experience a true appreciation for what we already have and what continues to be given — what enables us to turn our focus away from what we need or what we don’t have to what we have to give or share. And it truly is a joy to be able to share from our resources with others.”



Parishioners answer the call at Trinity Cafe.



St. Timothy sponsored the Catholic Relief Services food packing event.

“We’ve been working a lot in recent years to develop this concept that all that we have is from God. I want to be able to give testimony that we are working with God in our finances here at the parish. We’re not just here to consume and take. As a parish, we have a responsibility to support others.” — Fr. Kenneth Malley



Living According to God's Will

Forming a Conscience and Moral Code



As Christians, it is important that we recognize the difference between right and wrong — both morally and ethically. Sometimes, though, this line can become blurred.

Many situations we encounter in our lives include variables that can leave us internally conflicted and unsure of how to move forward in accordance with God's will.

So, how do we work through these moral conundrums? One way is to develop a solid Christian conscience.

A moral conscience exists in the heart of every individual. As the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* states, "When he listens to his conscience, the prudent man can hear God speaking. Conscience is a judgment of reason whereby the human person recognizes the moral quality of a concrete act that he is going to perform, is in the process of performing, or has already completed" (1777, 1778).

Think of your conscience as the "angelic" version of yourself sitting on your shoulder, giving you sound advice.

While everyone is blessed with a conscience, each individual has a responsibility to develop this conscience from the time they are young. Parents obviously play an important role in developing their children's consciences. As the primary educators of their children on ethical issues and the Catholic faith, parents have a responsibility to teach virtue to their children and help them to avoid fear, selfishness and pride. As we grow older, we take on the lifelong challenge of continually forming our own consciences, and establishing a moral code that enables us to make the proper judgments.

One valuable tool in forming a conscience is the practice of introspection. "It is important for every person to be sufficiently present to himself in order to hear and follow the voice of his conscience" (*CCC* 1779). In contemporary society, where there are so many distractions and routines, it is extremely important that we take the time to look inward and truly listen to what our inner voice is telling us.

Another way to ensure we are developing a good moral code is by conforming to the mind of Christ. God the Father gave us Christ, physically present on this earth and recorded in Sacred Scripture, as the ultimate example of what to do and how to behave according to God's will. In turn, when we act in loving imitation of Christ, we are certain to make practical judgments of conscience.

The next time you are faced with a moral dilemma, take some quiet time to look inward, weigh the positive and negative outcomes, and listen to the voice of your conscience. Read the Gospels for examples of Christ's teachings. By making this a regular practice, you will find that the voice of your conscience will come in louder and more clearly than you may have initially expected.

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Adult Faith Formation Ministry

Sharing Your Story of Faith

As people of faith, it may be all too easy to perceive what we believe as a “private” matter or something that is uncomfortable to share.

“We need to get over those hurdles,” says parishioner Bob Brennan. “[We want] to talk about this and see if we can move people away from fear, when it comes to sharing their faith. We want to give people an opportunity to think about, ‘What is it that I really believe about my faith and my parish?’”

Two years ago, the Adult Faith Formation Ministry at St. Timothy was formed to address the need of ongoing faith formation. This year, in response to the bishop’s initiative to equip people to live as missionary disciples, the ministry will be hosting events to empower parishioners to share their faith in a clear, concise and confident “elevator speech” or two-minute witness.

“Most people are very comfortable sharing their story of where they’re from or where they went to college or if they played sports, but not so much with their faith story,” says Bob, who currently serves as the chair of the Adult Faith Formation Ministry.

1 Peter 3:15 challenges Christians, “Always be ready to give an explanation to anyone who asks you for a

reason for your hope” — and yet, for many people, this is not an easy thing to do. This project hopes to change that.

“Adult Catholics should be able to answer a couple of questions — ‘Why am I Catholic? And why do I go to St. Timothy Parish?’” Bob says. “Each of us should have an answer for those questions. And if you don’t, maybe it is time to start thinking and praying to arrive at an answer.”

The “two-minute witness” initiative will give adults an opportunity to come together and learn how to share their story in a powerful way that invites others to consider learning about the faith or growing deeper in their relationship with God.

“The idea is, let’s give people some tools,” Bob says. “As adults, we should be intentional. Why have you chosen to go to St. Timothy? There’s a bunch of great parishes in the area — why did you choose St. Timothy? And why do you continue to choose to be Catholic? What was it yesterday or 25 years ago that made you choose to be Catholic?”

“Fr. Malley likes to say, ‘Everyone has a story,’” he adds. “We’re trying to equip people to be able to share

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If you would like more information on upcoming Adult Faith Formation events such as the “Elevator Speech” events, please contact Bob Brennan at bobbren22@gmail.com.





SAINT TIMOTHY

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Adult Faith Formation Ministry *continued from page 7*

that part of their story. If you're going to invite someone into our parish, the first thing they're going to ask you is, 'Why do you belong to St. Timothy? Why do you remain a Catholic?' We thought we'd start there. Fr. Malley says, 'Keep it simple. It's not about being a theologian. We all have our own story to tell.'

Details of this initiative will be coming soon and Bob hopes that many parishioners will take advantage of this opportunity to strengthen their own faith and learn how to share it with others.

"We hope to help people, wherever they are in their faith, to become intentional missionary disciples," Bob says. "Some people don't have the tools, some people have fear, some people have never thought about it. We're

going to try to address all those areas, because we want to be able to arm people with skills and competence in sharing their story."

"We're trying to equip people to be able to share that part of their story. If you're going to invite someone into our parish, the first thing they're going to ask you is, 'Why do you belong to St. Timothy? Why do you remain a Catholic?' We thought we'd start there." — Bob Brennan

Mass Schedule

Saturday Vigil: 5:30 p.m. • Sunday: 7:30, 9, 11 a.m. & 5:30 p.m. • Daily: Mon-Sat 9 a.m., Wed 6:15 p.m. • Holy Days: 9 a.m. & 7 p.m. Vigil: 7 p.m.